



## OAR Awards Scholarships to 35 Students with Autism

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ARLINGTON, VA – The Organization for Autism Research (OAR) takes great pleasure in announcing the recipients of the Lisa Higgins Hussman Scholarships and Schwallie Family Scholarships for 2015. The two scholarships attracted 511 total applicants and the 35 awards total \$105,000. Through this program, OAR has now provided scholarships to 191 students with autism diagnoses – a total financial contribution of \$584,500 since the program started in 2007.

Both scholarships provide one-time \$3,000 awards to students with autism diagnoses pursuing post-secondary education at a variety of different institutions. This year, OAR is awarding 20 Schwallie Family Scholarships; these students will be attending either four-year or two-year colleges. OAR is awarding Lisa Higgins Hussman Scholarships to 15 students, who will be attending either four-year or two-year colleges, vocational/technical schools, or co-operative life skills programs. To be eligible for one of the scholarships, an applicant must have a confirmed autism diagnosis (DSM-IV or later), be accepted for enrollment in the Fall 2015 and Spring 2016 semesters, and submit three short personal essays along with an application form and recommendation letter.

This year's scholarship recipients are:

[Lisa Higgins Hussman Scholarship](#)

**Elijah Anderson**, Boise State University

**Timothy "Collin" Brusnahan**, Edgewood College - Cutting-Edge

**Barret Bubenik**, University of Missouri-St. Louis - SUCCEED

**Tia Cheek**, University of North Carolina - Greensboro - Beyond Academics

**Joshua Foster**, George Mason University - Mason Life Program

**Brock Hanson**, Concordia University

**Derek E.D. James**, Kennesaw State University Academy for Inclusive Learning and Social Growth

**Benjamin E. Minney**, University of Cincinnati - Transition and Access Program

**Courtney Morrison**, Lehigh Valley Center of Independent Living

**Jack R. Reusch**, University of Central Missouri - THRIVE

**Christina Leigh Roberts**, Houston Community College - VAST Academy

**Brandon Michael Shannon**, Central Piedmont Community College - Special Learning Needs

**Dexter Maurice Turpin Jr.**, University of North Carolina - Greensboro - Beyond Academics

**Jamal T. Underwood**, Vanderbilt University - Next Steps

**Chase B. Woodruff**, Project Search

Schwallie Family Scholarship

**Elise M. Ballard**, University of Maine

**Daniel Benton**, Alfred State College

**Kathleen Burkhardt**, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

**Nicholas Costrino**, St. Louis Community College at Meramec

**Christopher Eccles**, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

**Elijah Conner Howell**, Texas State University

**Luke Lapresi**, Rochester Institute of Technology

**Jamie Malloy**, Monroe Community College

**Shane R. McNealy**, University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh

**Justin Melendez**, Rutgers University - New Brunswick

**Jeremy Nenstiel**, Luzerne County Community College

**Joshua Nowacki**, Viterbo University

**Jasmin Palmer**, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**Alan Peterson**, Duquesne University

**Alex Rennie**, Santa Fe University of Art and Design

**Evan Siebert**, St. John Fisher College

**Samuel Strickland**, Southern Polytechnic State University

**Emily Velasquez**, University of Portland

**Kyle Wilson**, George Fox University

**Bruno Youn**, Claremont-McKenna College

OAR congratulates each of the 35 recipients listed and extends its gratitude once again to the Lisa Higgins Hussman Foundation and the Schwallie Family Foundation. These scholarships would not be possible without their generous support.

**About OAR:** The Organization for Autism Research (OAR) is a national nonprofit organization formed and led by relatives of children and adults with autism. OAR is dedicated to promoting research that can be applied to help families, educators, caregivers, and individuals with autism find much-needed answers to their immediate and urgent questions. Learn more at their Web site: [www.researchautism.org](http://www.researchautism.org).

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